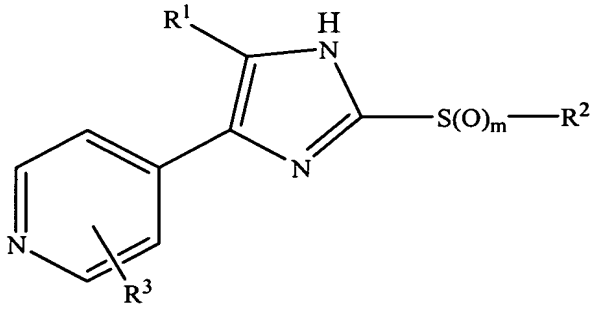
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A 2-thio-substituted imidazole derivative of the formula I:



I

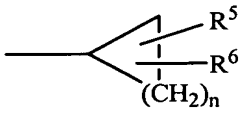
wherein ~~in which~~

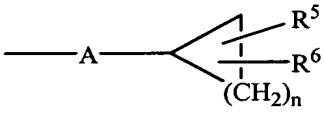
R^1 is C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl or aryl which is unsubstituted or substituted by a halogen atom, by C_1-C_6-alkyl or by halo-C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of:

a) aryl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, where the aryl radical may have one, two or three substituents, independently of one another, selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, halogen, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfanyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl and hydroxyl, and

b) C_1-C_6-alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by CN or halogen[[;]],

c) 

d) 

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of:

a) $NR^4 R^{10}[[;]]_z$

b) $NR^7COR^{10}[[;]]_z$

c) $NR^7COOR^{10}[[;]]_z$

d) $NR^7CONR^7R^{10}[[;]]_z$

e) $NR^7CONR^7COR^{10}[[;]]_z$

f) $OR^{10}[[;]]_z$

g) $S(O)_mR^{10}{}_z$

h) halogen[[;]]$_z$

i) OH[[;]]$_z$

j) $N_{3,z}$

k) NH_2, and

l) SH[[;]], and

wherein ~~where~~ R^3 is not OH, halogen, C_1-C_6-alkylthio or C_1-C_6-alkoxy, if R^2 is phenyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, and the phenyl radical has a C_1-C_6-alkylsulfanyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfinyl or C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl substituent[[;]]$_z$

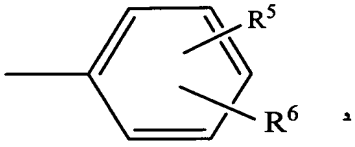
R^4 is H or a physiologically cleavable group,

R^5 and R^6, which may be identical or different, are H, halogen, OH, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkyl, halo-C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfanyl, NH_2, C_1-C_6-alkylamino or di-C_1-C_6-alkylamino[[;]],

R^7 is R^4, C_1-C_6-alkyl or benzyl[[;]],

R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of ~~has one of the meanings below~~:

a) A – B,

b) 

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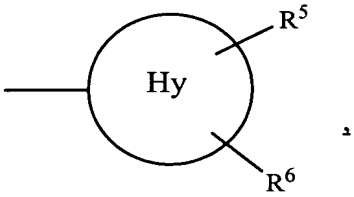
c) 

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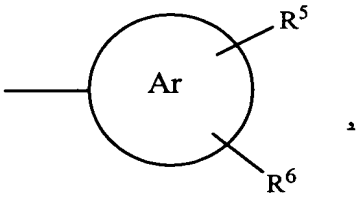
d) 

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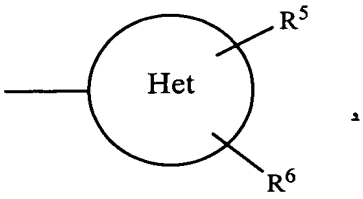
e) 

,

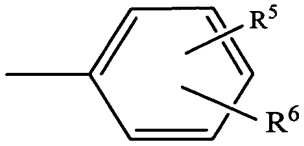
f) C_1-C_6-alkyl which is substituted by 2 or 3 phenyl groups[[;]], and

g) trifluoromethyl, ~~Trifluoromethyl~~

A is straight-chain or branched C_1-C_6-alkylene, C_2-C_6-alkenylene or C_3-alkynylene[[;]],

B is selected from the group consisting of:

a) H,

b) 

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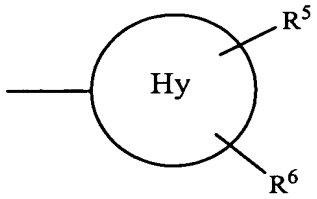
c) 

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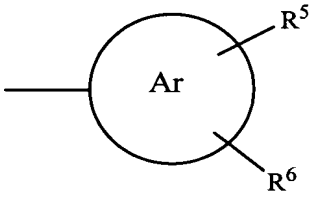
d) 

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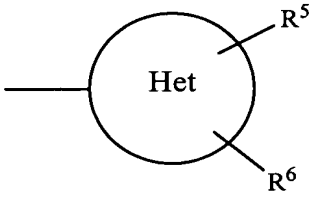
e) 

,

f) OC_1-C_6-alkyl[[;]],

g) $NR^{11}R^{12}$[[;]],

h) OH[[;]],

i) halogen[[;]], and

j) C_1-C_6-alkylsulfanyl,

R^{11} and R^{12}, which may be identical or different, are H, C_1-C_6-alkyl or phenyl[[;]],

Hy is a 3- to 10-membered, non-aromatic mono-, bi- or tricyclic carbocycle, which may or may not be fused with a benzene ring[[;]],

Ar is a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocycle, which has 1, 2 or 3 hetero-atoms, independently of one another, selected from the group consisting of O, S and N, and which may or may not be fused with a benzene ring[[;]],

Het is a 5- or 6-membered, non-aromatic heterocycle, which has 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms, independently of one another, selected from the group consisting of O, S and N, which may or may not be fused with a benzene ring, and which may or may not be bridged bicyclically or tricyclically;

m is ~~0, 1~~ 0, 1 or 2;

n is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

and the tautomers, optical isomers and physiologically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The imidazole derivative ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1 of the formula I, wherein ~~in which~~

R^1 is C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl or aryl which may or may not be substituted by a halogen atom;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of:

a) aryl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, where the aryl radical may have one, two or three substituents, independently of one another, selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, halogen, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfanyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl and hydroxyl, ~~and~~

b) C_1-C_6-alkyl which may or may not be substituted by CN; and

c) C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of:

a) NR^4R^{10},

b) ~~NR^7COR^{10}.~~ NR^7COR^{10};

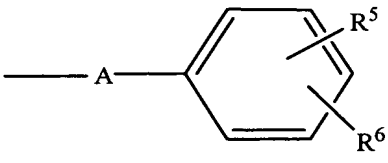
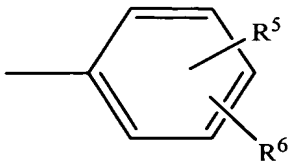
c) halogen ~~and~~,

d) C_1-C_6-alkoxy, and

e) C_1-C_6-alkylthio,

~~where~~ wherein R^3 is not OH, halogen, C_1-C_6-alkylthio or C_1-C_6-alkoxy, if R^2 is phenyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, and the phenyl radical has a C_1-C_6-alkylsulfanyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfinyl or C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl substituent;

R^4 is H[[;]],

R^{10} is  or 

or, if R^3 is ~~NR^7COR^{10}.~~ NR^7COR^{10}, is R^8,

R^5 and R^6, which may be identical or different, are H, halogen, OH, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkyl[[;]],

R^7 is H, C_1-C_6-alkyl or benzyl[[;]],

R^8 is C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl or phenyl, where the phenyl group may have one or two substituents, independently of one another, selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy and halogen[[;]],

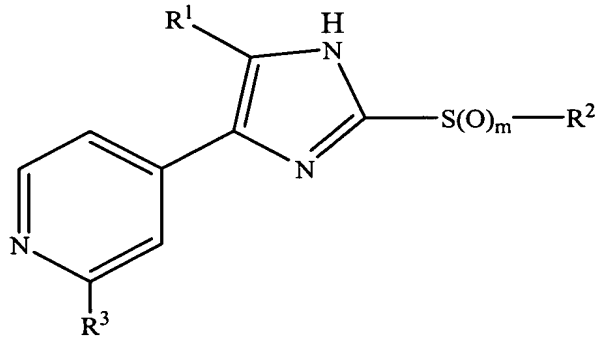
A is straight-chain or branched C_1-C_6-alkylene, C_2-C_6-alkenylene or C_3-alkynylene;

and

m is ~~0,1~~ 0, 1 or 2

or a tautomer, an optic isomer or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

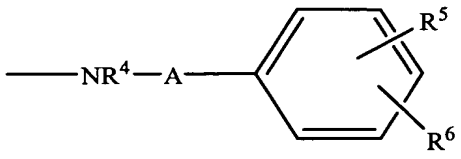
Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The imidazole derivative ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1~~or 2~~, wherein formula I ~~of the~~ is represented by the structure for formula Ia:



Ia

in which R^1, R^2, R^3 and m are as defined for the structure of formula I ~~in claim 1~~.

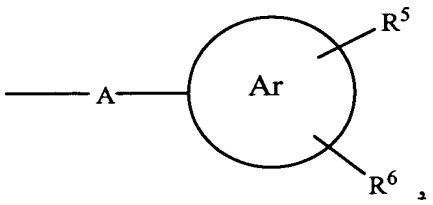
Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The imidazole derivative ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ~~where~~ R^3 is



where A, R^5 and R^6 are as defined for the structure of formula I ~~in claim 1~~.

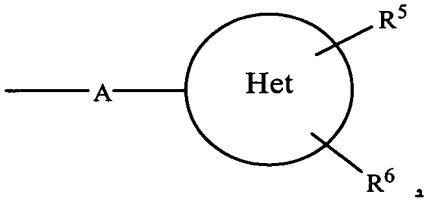
Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The imidazole derivative ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in ~~of the~~ formula I, ~~in which~~ R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of ~~one of the radicals below~~:

a)



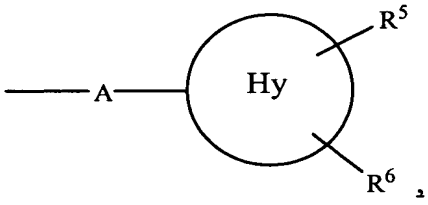
where Ar is a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocycle, which has a heteroatom selected from the group consisting of N, O and S; A is C_1-C_3-alkylene, and may be substituted by a phenyl radical, and R^5 and R^6 are H;

b)



where Het is a 5- or 6-membered non-aromatic heterocycle, which has an O or N heteroatom; A is C_1-C_3-alkylene, and R^5 and R^6 are H;

c)



where A is C_1-C_6-alkylene; R^5 and R^6 are H, and Hy is cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl;

d) cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl;

e) phenyl-C_1-C_6-alkyl, where the alkyl radical may have an additional phenyl substituent; and

f) C_2-C_6-alkenyl which is substituted by phenyl.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The imidazole derivative ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in ~~of the~~ formula I, ~~in which~~ R^3 is A-B_2 and B is selected from the group consisting of $NR^{11}R^{12}$, OC_1-C_6-alkyl and OH_2 and A, R^{11} and R^{12} are as defined for formula I ~~in claim 1~~.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The imidazole derivative ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in ~~of the~~ formula I, ~~in which~~ R^3 is NR^7COR^8, where R^8 is selected from the group consisting of -O-C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl, phenyl and C_2-C_6-alkenyl which is substituted by phenyl.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The imidazole derivative ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims where~~ A is C_1-C_2-alkylene.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The imidazole derivative ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims where~~ A is ethylidene.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The imidazole derivative ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims where~~ R^5 and R^6 are H.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The imidazole derivative ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims where~~ R^1 is halogen-substituted phenyl, CF_3-substituted phenyl or C_1-C_6-alkyl-substituted phenyl.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The imidazole derivative ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims where~~ R^2 is benzyl or C_1-C_6-alkyl.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical composition, comprising the imidazole derivative ~~at least one compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, and ~~if appropriate together with~~ one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or additives.

Claim 14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method for treating disorders associated with a disturbed immune system, which comprises, administering, to a person in need thereof, the imidazole derivative, ~~characterized in that an amount of a compound of the formula I~~ as claimed in claim 1, ~~any of claims 1-12~~ in an amount sufficient to have immunomodulating action and/or to inhibit the release of cytokine ~~is administered to a person in need of such a treatment~~.